

COA Minutes
January 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 13:01

Attendance: Howard, Jinx, Deb, Tony, Colleen, Frank, Jim, Betty, Judie, Debby

Minutes submitted for approval. Jinx moved that we accept the minutes as written. Judie seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

Tony reports that our numbers are now mostly in agreement with the town's, with the exception of one transaction. He praised Colleen for keeping excellent records. Frank moved to accept treasurer's report. Deb seconded. Treasurer's report accepted unanimously.

Chair's Report:

Frank introduced Debbie Wiesen-Kelly, a prospective COA member. We heard a summary of the Lifepath Villages Learning series. Tony represented Northfield at the recent presentation. The next three presentations/discussions will be February 8th (Healthy Boundaries and Protective Services), March 8th (Transportation Support), and April 12th (Working with Dementia and Reframing Aging). All presentations start at 2:00. Tony feels that the entire COA should be involved in these presentations. Colleen did invite all members, as well as Pam Eldridge, but few attended. The series is coordinated by Lynn Feldman at Lifepath.

Frank provided us with a COVID update, including the town's new policy concerning sick leave and the reinstatement of a town-wide mask policy per the Board of Health. It was noted that the Town's website is not up-to-date and that this should be brought to the attention of the appropriate town officials.

Judie thanked the board for the prayers and cards she received during her recent illness.

We began to examine some of the proposed changes to the bylaws. The discussion centered on the Vision, Mission, and Value Statements. There was a question about changing the age as stated in the Mission Statement to 50, but it was decided to keep the age at 60, since we are reimbursed by the commonwealth only for services extended to people 60 or older. There was another question about the term "third place". It was decided that we would change this to a "welcoming gathering place". We discussed the list that is currently included as part of the value statement. At Tony's suggestion agreed that statements should be succinct and not

include lists and that the list, along with the one included in the Mission Statement, should be moved to Article II. Betty will write up a draft of the new Article II for review at our next meeting. Per Jinx's question about procedure, Betty will also type up the verbally agreed upon changes to the Vision, Mission, and Value Statements and distribute these to the board prior to the next meeting. We also discussed the confusion caused by using different terms, (bylaws/policies and procedures) and decided to be more consistent. It seems that we are leaning towards using the term bylaws, as all COA's are required to have bylaws by the commonwealth.

Director's Report:

Colleen reiterated that there is now a town-wide mask mandate.

She reports that Happy Feet continues to go well. The walk/tour of St Thomas Aquinas has been rescheduled for May 31.

The health clinics are doing well. Until later notice, however, there will be no SHINE program as the representative had to resign. Colleen asked if anyone was willing to go through the 13-week training to become a SHINE representative. Coffee hour drop-in time is well attended, with a variety of activities (dominos, knitting, chatting) taking place. People enjoy the TV. HBB participation is growing. Yoga remains as well attended as it has been all along.

The monthly Thursday coffee hours feature guest speakers. Chief of Police John Hall spoke on January 20th; a representative from the DA's office will address scams that target seniors on February 17th.

Colleen reminded us of the closure policy, that if PVRs is closed, the Senior Center will also be. There will also be notification on the website, TV, and radio. Nour will attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the next stages for becoming an Age Friendly Community. That meeting should also include approval of Debbie as a new member to the COA.

Colleen and Lifepath continue to work on a survey that will be distributed to all of Northfield's seniors. There was some discussion as to how to arrange for the mass mailing and its costs. Colleen will ask Lifepath if they will assist with the cost of postage. Jinx asked if using volunteers to fold and stuff envelopes would help mitigate the cost, but most felt it would be more cost effective to use ADMS out of Greenfield. Jim offered to cover whatever costs the COA cannot afford. Jinx will ask the Friends for assistance as well.

Neighbors at Home: Betty reports that the status for services offered by Neighbors at Home has not changed since last month. N@H will be distributing N95 masks to all its members as part of its "Knock and Drop" activity. There will be extra masks for volunteers who drive members to appointments.

Legislation: COVID tests will be provided by the commonwealth, four per household per month.

Newsletter: Jim will be featured in the "Meet the COA" section of the February newsletter. Betty will be featured in March. Jinx will continue with "Helpful Hints". Deb is looking into topics of conversation for a proposed discussion group. She will write a piece for the newsletter.

Frank introduced Debby Wiesen-Kelly more thoroughly, mentioning her various working experiences. Frank submitted a motion to accept Debby as a new member to the COA. Betty seconded. Debby was accepted unanimously. The process of approval by Selectboard and being sworn in by Dan was explained to Debby.

Colleen wants to retake the photos of board members to make them more uniform.

Betty moved that we adjourn. Judie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 14:52

Respectfully submitted,
Betty and Jim